

## SCALING-UP COVERAGE & QUALITY OF HIV & HEPATITIS-C (HCV) PREVENTION TARGETED TO MOST-AT-RISK POPULATION

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1. Recovering Nepal
2. SATHI SAMUHA
3. Asian Network of People Who Use Drug-ANPUD

**Background:** There are **93,534** people who use drugs (PUD) in Nepal (*IBBS-2017*) and an estimated 34,000 people who inject drugs (PWIDs) live all over Nepal. In Kathmandu alone there are 2,876 PWIDs. HIV prevalence among PWIDs is 6.4% (UNAIDS -2018).

The major objectives of project are:

1. Reduce HIV & HCV prevalence ratio among PWIDs
2. Provide quality treatment, care and support services to people living with HIV (*PLHIV*)

**Description of model of care/intervention:** Since **February 2009** SATHI SAMUHA (*SATHI*); community-led organization of PUD has initiated the Global Fund project in Kathmandu district. SATHI runs **6** drop-in-centers (*DIC*) with harm reduction services including needle/syringe exchange program (*NSEP*) for PWIDs, conducts peer-led outreach program, community-based HIV & HCV testing program and linkages to treatment and care and provides primary health care.

**Effectiveness:** Until end of **December 2018**, SATHI has:

- Contributed for reduction of HIV and HCV prevalence among PWIDs from **20.36%** to **6.4%** and from above **90%** to **76%** respectively.
- Enrolled **3438** PWIDs in NSEP
- Tested for HIV- **2473**, HCV-**950**
- Enrolled total **55** co-infected PWIDs on pilot treatment program
- Enrolled total PLHIVs on **514** ARV.

**Conclusion and next step:** SATHI have contributed in reduction of HIV & HCV prevalence rate among PWIDs. During our work-experience we found that liver disease is the major cause of death among PWIDs with or without HIV co-infection. Therefore there is clear need for funding agencies and Nepal Government to effectively coordinate & plan and immediately execute “**Identify, Reach, Recommend, Test, Treat & Retain-IRRTR**” program not only for PLHIVs but also for PWIDs (*who share a large portion of PLHIVs in Nepal*) with HCV mono infection or co-infections. All to achieve various national & international targets like World Health Organization’s target for ‘Elimination of HCV epidemic by 2030’, IRRTR and ending AIDS epidemic by 2030 etc.

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